

Joint Meeting of the NJ Commission on EE And Inter-agency Work Group
AGENDA (Revised)
Thursday, January 25, 2001
 NJDEP Headquarters, Trenton
 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Public Hearing Room

8:30 a.m.	COFFEE/TEA	
9:00 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions * Review/approval of previous meeting notes * Review agenda/Changes? New Business? * DEP parking issue for NJCEE and IWG members * Membership gaps and terms – update * Overview of last meeting's afternoon 'indicators' session * Update on EIC/Dodge grant proceedings	Frank Frank Frank Tanya/Frank Tanya/Frank Postponed Tanya/Marc
9:20 a.m.	Inter-agency Work Group and EE Network Committee Report * Update on RFP for ANJEE/EPA grant * Update on ANJEE web site activity * Other:	Frank/George Janice/Tanya
9:30 a.m.	Finance and Legislative Committee Report * Recent Legislative activity and sponsorship * Other:	Dave/Jim
9:45 a.m.	Program Committee Report * Update on ANJEE expenditures for the \$5,000 * Update on other grant opportunities in the ED account * Other:	Tanya
10:00 a.m.	BREAK	
10:15 a.m.	Publications Committee and Group Discussion * Update on distribution of EE poster * Update on annual report * Plan of Action revisions – group discussion * Other:	Anne/Karen Tanya Tanya Anne/Karen
10:40 a.m.	NJDOE update on CCCS review process * Questions and discussion	John/Art
10:55 a.m.	DEP 'EE Showcase' Item #1 – 15 minutes * SEEDS – Introduction to DEP's EE online Directory * Additional ideas? Group suggestions and ideas	Marc Rogoff
11:10 a.m.	DEP 'EE Showcase' Item #2 – 15 minutes * DEP Watershed Management and Education Activities * Group input and discussion	Kyra Hoffman
11:25 a.m.	DEP 'EE Showcase' Item #3 – 25 minutes * DEP's education/research work with the public * Group input and discussion	Brandon J.
11:50 a.m.	Wrap up of morning business meeting * New business, if any; Meeting summary; Next meeting	Frank
12:00 noon	DEPARTURE	

Meeting Notes
Joint Meeting of the NJ Commission on Environmental Education and
Inter-agency Work Group
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Attendance

Attendees: Rich Belcher, Bob DeCicco, Fran DiCarlantonio, John Dougherty, Mimi Dunne, Joe Eldridge, Joni Elliot, Elizabeth Faircloth, Frank Gallagher, Anne Galli, Rodney Groff, Carol Hoeman, Gracelynn Johnson, Pat Kane, John Lysko, Kathleen McLaughlin, Arthur Mitchell, David Nash, Tanya Oznowich, Barry Schlegel, George Schlosser, Helen Skerratt, Karen Wintress
(17 voting members, quorum present)

Absent: Emile DeVito, Erin Dougherty, Fred Ellerbusch, Don Haberstroh, Toni Hendricksen, Paul Kaleda, Lynn Keepers, John Kirk, Ray Mueller, Sam Race, Barbara Rich, Jim Shissias

Guests/Staff: Margaret George, Sandy Huber, Janice Reese-Berardo, Marc Rogoff

Opening Remarks

- Frank reviewed the agenda and asked for changes or additions. There were none.
- The November meeting notes were reviewed, approved and accepted by those present with no changes (**Don H. made the motion; Anne provided a second; all in favor**).
- Frank sent a letter from the Chair of the NJCEE to former Governor Whitman, thanking her for her support in NJ for conservation and environmental protection/education.
- Frank sent a letter from the Chair of the NJCEE to the new Acting Governor, informing him of the proposed EE legislation and offering the commission's expertise in EE to him and staff.
- Regarding NJCEE membership issues, the renewal of the following members was agreed to and would be submitted to the Governor's Appointments Staff: Don H., Sam R., Kathy M. and Pat K. Emile DeVito formally resigned from the group due to family and work commitments. The group agreed to nominate Ms. Leslie Parness for his opening – She is the Director of Education for the Greater Newark Conservancy.
- Frank and Tanya provided an overview and update on the EIC Approach and its implementation in NJ through the Dodge grant. Tanya agreed to compile and circulate a list of schools that applied for the grant (#55) to members of the commission, ANJEE, etc.
- Tanya discussed the current problem with a loss of parking. The Temple and its parking lot were sold. As of March, 2001, DEP would no longer have parking access there. The group discussed who is able to get reimbursement from their employer. It was agreed that those who can, would park in the garage. Tanya would then purchase parking passes for the garage and they would be distributed to NJCEE and IWG members who could not get visitor parking and cannot get reimbursed. This money would be taken out of the trust fund account.

Inter-agency Work Group/Network Committee Report

- Frank had made some calls to people who received the RFP to see if its re-design would draw out more interest – still wasn't becoming a fruitful process.
- George offered to reconvene the Network Committee. Members included Rod G., Marc R., George W., Karen W. and Janice R.

Legislative and Finance Committee Report

- The Senate version of the bill was approved in the Senate Education Committee. Amendments were then made in the Senate version of the bill (which directed the funds to NJDEP and the NJCEE's Trust Fund).
- The next step for the Assembly version of the bill is the Appropriations Committee. Support is needed and this could present a challenge. The Chair is Richard Bagger and the Vice Chair is Leonard Lance. The Senate version of the bill should move quickly through the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- The Legislature will focus on the state budget in May and June. Senator Latell is Chair of the Budget Committee and he is familiar with the bill.
- Anyone interested in writing letters of support for the bill should contact David Nash.

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Program Committee Report

- The group reviewed the draft proposal that Tanya put together for the 10 \$1,000 grants for in-service and pre-service EE professional development experiences for New Jersey teachers.
- Editorial comments to the draft proposal included references to food, a request for a budget, details about specific expenditures, linkage to Plan of Action, linkage to guiding principles within the POA, and an expressed emphasis on integrated EE.
- John D. offered DOE assistance in getting the grant circulated to NJ schools through the DOE fax network linked to the county Sup's offices.
- Tanya has not had time to begin to finalize expenditures for the \$5,000 to be used for educational programs (on education) for non-formal environmental educators.

Publications Committee Report

- A variety of commission and work group members assisted with distributing the EE posters to the audiences that they represent on the commission or work group. Pat K. took the posters to a spring conference on agriculture and education; Anne G. had copies sent to other nature centers in NJ and asked that the posters be shared with their Board members; Toni H. had the posters and a letter sent to the county prosecutors and to the state's police academies; and, Erin D. sent the poster to 134 members of the NJ Association of Museums. Thanks to everyone for this type of support for the work of the commission and work group!
- Regarding the POA revisions, the committee will have their '2nd generation draft' at the March commission and work group meeting. Its release to the public should coincide with a letter of signature from the new Governor (2002).

Presentation: Review of the NJ Classroom Standards

- John D. and Art M. provided an update about the process that NJDOE has in place to review and possibly update the state's Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS's). They explained that the process will take about a year. It began already in January with a 3-day benchmarking meeting, where a diverse group of education professionals were brought together to compare the NJ standards and indicators with national models and look for gaps; Recommendations were then made on what may still be needed.
- Whereas the NJ Science standards are in fairly good standing and the environmental standard has been well received, the Social Studies standards may undergo some change. There is criticism that the SS standards are too broad, vague and general. The national SS standards are more detailed – many NJ SS teachers agree.
- John requested the NJCEE to consider submitting information abetween now and May, 2001, as to how the SS standards can be improved (with particular attention given to those that support environmental education). A written submission could be derived from a focus group discussion and should be submitted to the advisory panel, who will meet again in May. Our interests should focus on providing more clarity and detail.
- The NJ Science standards have always received high marks when compared to those in other states. If anything, the review process may highlight some 'holes.' Environmental questions have been prominent in the state tests, as well. Art's supervisor is open to input from the NJCEE. The advisory group used McCrell to compare to the NJ standards – Env. content is not common in the McCrell set of standards. It was stressed that NJDOE has no influence into this process because they are relying on outside consultants to see this through.
- A few NJCEE members or EE community members were also members of the NJDOE Advisory Committee to this process and included John Lisko, Tanya Oznovich and Margaret George (guest attendee).

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Additional Notes:

- DEP 'EE Showcase Items' included the DEP Division of Watershed Management's educational efforts, presented by Kyra Hoffman; and, DEP research being done on the long-term effectiveness of its public outreach efforts. This was presented by Branden Johnson in the DEP Division of Science, Research and Technology.
- Tanya summarized major meeting points, discussed the meeting logistics for the March meeting, and closed the meeting.

3/16/01 T.O.